



March 5, 2014

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW – Suite TW-A325
Washington, D.C. 20554

Attn, Wireline Competition Bureau

Re: WC Docket No. 10-90 Rural Broadband Experiment Expression of Interest in Rural Trials

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Sebastian operates two telephone companies (Kerman Telephone Co. and Foresthill Telephone Co) and a non-regulated affiliate (Audeamus) which all do business in California as Sebastian. Sebastian or its predecessors have been providing quality services in and around the areas of Kerman, California and Foresthill, California for over 100 years. Kerman is located in the central valley just west of Fresno and Foresthill is located east of Sacramento in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Both of the telephone companies have established broadband deployment that exceeds the Commission standards within their service areas and Audeamus has implemented broadband services outside of Kerman through an ARRA/BTOP grant. Sebastian continues to strive to deliver quality services to the rural areas that it can reach with its limited size and capital constraints.

Sebastian would like to express interest in participating in the Commission's rural broadband experiment designed to provide robust, scalable, high-speed broadband to unserved high-cost areas. Should the Commission determine that support is available in those areas near or around either of our current service areas, Sebastian would be interested in providing service to these customers.

Sebastian promotes fiber-to-the-home as the technology that best serves customers. It would be the company's preference to serve customers using this medium. Because of the BTOP grant, the company may be able to leverage their construction in areas around Kerman to offer this technology to additional areas where fiber may pass or exist already. Given sufficient support, Sebastian would pursue this service establishment.

Provided in the table below is a list of the census tracts that Sebastian would be considering for service (please note that some of these tracts overlap with the current service area of the telephone companies).

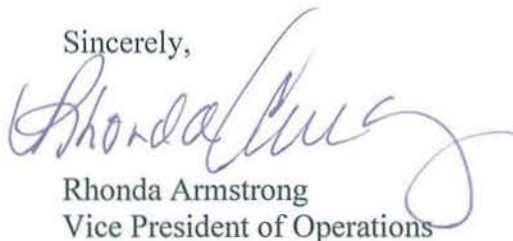
State	County	County Name	Tract ID	Eligible High Cost Locations	Extremely High Cost Locations	Annual Support
CA	06019	Fresno	06019001900	285	9	\$89,698.51
CA	06019	Fresno	06019003803	33	1	\$4,606.90
CA	06019	Fresno	06019003900	51	18	\$128,087.33
CA	06019	Fresno	06019004207	32	0	\$10,349.96
CA	06019	Fresno	06019007600	1006	101	\$444,750.49
CA	06019	Fresno	06019008200	672	236	\$339,120.38
CA	06061	Placer	06061020200	136	95	\$72,790.12

Sebastian is currently not a CLEC and does not have ETC status outside its telephone company areas. Should Sebastian move forward with this project, it would have to obtain certifications from the California Public Utilities Commission regarding both of these designations. Sebastian has also not yet evaluated the investment that would need to be made to serve these areas. Because the unserved high-cost census blocks within the selected Census Tracts have yet to be identified, Sebastian is unable to estimate the construction costs and amount of funding needed. The costs will be identified should a formal proposal be submitted.

Sebastian considers this a simple expression of interest pending further consideration of the specific rules and contingencies that will apply to proposed projects in qualifying rural broadband trial areas. Sebastian's decision to pursue a project in any of the identified areas depends upon whether the project can be economically viable and the ultimate requirements associated with acceptance of any funding. We look forward to reviewing further information regarding the specific requirements as this initiative moves forward.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at 559-846-9311.

Sincerely,



Rhonda Armstrong
Vice President of Operations